

Fire Spreads Panic in Skyscraper on Lower Broadway

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The

Evening

World.

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NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1917.

16 PAGES

PRICE ONE CENT.

FOUR CAUGHT IN CONSPIRACY TO MURDER LLOYD GEORGE

CONNOLLY ON STAND TO TELL SOURCE OF THE HUTTON "TIP;" BOLLING FIRM LOST \$40,000

"Leak" Committee Seeks to Learn How Resume of Wilson Note Was Obtained.

HUTTON MADE \$22,000.

Partner Called to Explain Telegrams—House 339,700 Shares Short Dec. 20.

E. F. Hutton, Wall Street broker, whose firm sent out an advance tip on President Wilson's peace message, told the "leak" investigating committee to-day that it was based on information that came from F. A. Connolly & Co., Washington brokers, of which firm R. W. Bolling, brother-in-law of President Wilson, is a member.

Mr. Hutton said he had no knowledge of Connolly & Co.'s source of information and it was up to Mr. Connolly to tell the committee where he got it. He said Connolly's clients lost about \$40,000 during the "leak" period. LOSSES AS HIGH AS \$717,000 ARE REVEALED.

Records of correspondents, presented by Hutton, showed technical losses ranging from \$717,000 down during the leak period, with no winnings except perhaps in cases of unrecorded individual clients.

In closing, Hutton voiced a defense of Wall Street.

"Would you see any objection to Congress passing a law denying the use of the mails or interstate commerce on transactions that were irregular?" asked Chairman Henry.

"I think the Board of Governors would agree to such a thing—if transactions were irregular or improper," Hutton replied.

Connolly went on the stand late in the afternoon and told how he went into the brokerage business.

Examining closely into the various telegrams received and sent out by Hutton & Co. over their private wire system on Dec. 20, the day before the President's note was published, the committee learned that Hutton had not first hand knowledge of the messages.

Some were handled by Mr. Barrett, a partner, who is very ill at home, and others by George A. Ellis Jr., another partner, who was reported at some point fifty miles from Savannah, Ga.

PARTNER ELLIS SUBPOENAED TO APPEAR AT ONCE.

The committee ordered that Ellis be subpoenaed and ordered to start at once for New York. Mr. Hutton sent a personal telegram urging him to do so.

It was also developed that no other wire house in Wall Street sent out such specific and detailed advance information about the President's peace note as the advice of Hutton & Co. to their correspondents.

Hutton declared that during the "leak" period, from Dec. 10 to 23, he made a profit of about \$22,000 by selling Utah Copper stock. He traded in three lots of 500 shares each, but all transactions were closed out by Dec. 18, which was two days before the "leak" tips of Dec. 20.

He also sold short American Steel Sugar 200 shares on Dec. 18 and 200 on Dec. 20, which have not yet been covered. He had one quick trade in

BOXING LAW REPEAL URGED BY WHITMAN AFTER RING DEATH

Bill Is Being Prepared for Senate—Legislators Are Split Over Proposal.

(Special from a Staff Correspondent.) ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 31.—Gov. Whitman to-day issued a statement favoring the repeal of the State boxing law, following the killing of Stephen T. McDonald in a prize fight here last night. The Governor said: "Apparently, public exhibitions, which amount to little less than prize fights, can be given in this State without violating the present statute. I am in favor of repealing the whole law. Certainly some of the recent exhibitions are not of such a nature as to appeal even to the lovers of wholesome athletic sports. The details of the proposed legislation will be considered later."

In line with the Governor's statement Senator Slater of Westchester has prepared a bill for immediate introduction in the Senate in which he provides for the repeal of the boxing law.

It is said that the testimony given against Frederick A. Wencik, Chairman of the State Athletic Commission, concerning dealings with prize-fight promoters, also influenced Gov. Whitman in making his statement. Ten-round sparring exhibitions without a decision were legalized in New York in 1912 by the enactment of the Frawley Law. Two years ago details of this law were amended so as to authorize the present Athletic Commission of three members to regulate boxing. Under the amendments 71-2 per cent. of the receipts of exhibitions go into the State Treasury.

If the Governor's recommendation for the repeal of the entire law is carried out, it probably will mean that the only boxing bouts permitted in the State will be staged by private clubs to which no admission fee can legally be charged. Before the enactment of the Frawley Law many clubs were organized simply to produce bouts in successful attempts to escape the law and much scandal resulted.

When the members of the Legislature learned the Governor's intention many of them, including Republicans, said they would not support any movement to repeal the law, but would urge that the present State Athletic Commission be replaced by men experienced in boxing.

They argued that the death of McDonald should not be regarded as a reason for abolishing sparring matches, and they pointed out that deaths from football and other sports occurred with more frequency than in the prize ring. Some members, however, said they would support the Governor's attempt to abolish ring contests.

The death of McDonald was due to "shock" occasioned by a blow over the solar plexus, according to the decision of Dr. Fred Myers, Cornell's physician, who performed an autopsy to-day.

FIRE IN U. S. STEEL QUARTERS CAUSES SKYSCRAPER PANIC

Short Circuit Starts Blaze and Leaves Empire Building in Darkness.

OFFICE WORKERS FLEE.

Crowds, Attracted by Smoke, Jam Broadway From Battery to Cedar Street.

Thousands of men and women at work in offices in the Empire Building, at No. 71 Broadway, were badly frightened at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon when a short circuit of electric light and telephone wires left part of the building in darkness and without telephone service and started a fire on the seventeenth floor in the executive offices of the United States Steel Corporation.

The fire was kept within the walls of the building, but the insulation was burned from wires on many floors, and the firemen were kept busy chipping through plaster to reach it. For several minutes there was great excitement, and scores rushed from the building, going to the ground floor in the darkened elevators. The large lights in the arcade on the ground floor were also extinguished, and an excited crowd rushed from there to the street.

The first alarm of the fire appeared back of the switchboard at the entrance to the steel company's offices, and the telephone operator, Miss Frances Strang, gave the alarm. While a call for the fire engines was being sent from within the building, Patrolman Zenodionos of the Old Slip Station, with thousands in the street, saw smoke coming from the roof and he also turned in an alarm. An alarm was also turned in from the Equitable Building by some one who saw the smoke.

Several engines and special apparatus for cutting into the walls of the building arrived in charge of Deputy Chief Langford and for twenty minutes Broadway cars were blocked. A dense crowd filled Broadway from the Battery to Cedar Street, overflowing into the side streets.

Traffic men and a dozen policemen from Old Slip and Greenwich stations were called out to handle the crowds and hundreds were forced from the streets into Trinity Churchyard. Policemen were hurried through the Empire Building to assure the tenants there was no danger, but for some time the office employees who had not fled were anxious.

In many of the offices the telephone service was not resumed for the rest of the afternoon and daylight was the only light. There was but little flame, but the burning insulation gave off much smoke and the damage to the walls and the wiring was heavy.

Newspaper Man Appointed Postmaster at Honolulu. WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—D. H. Macadam, for many years Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Republic, was nominated by President Wilson to-day as Postmaster at Honolulu. He worked for the Democratic National Committee in the last campaign.

Highest Price Since Civil War for Live Hogs. CHICAGO, Jan. 31.—Twelve dollars per 100 pounds, the highest since the Civil War, was paid for live hogs at the Union Stock yards here today.

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MITCHEL AND PRENDERGAST ATTACKED BY SENATOR FOR CONTRACT WITH N. Y. CENTRAL

Thompson Can't Understand How They Could Conspire to Relieve Company of Tax.

FORGOT THEIR PLEDGES

"Many Jokes in New York City," He Says, "but the Jokes Are on the People."

(Special from a Staff Correspondent.) ALBANY, Jan. 31.—Senator George F. Thompson to-day attacked Comptroller Prendergast and Mayor Mitchell for the conduct of the New York Central west side contract, and dared them to submit it to an investigation at the hands of a committee that was not interested in the grant.

Senator Thompson rose to a question of personal privilege as soon as the routine work of the Senate had ended and began a long arraignment of the city officials. He charged them with being in collusion with the railroad officials to the end that the State would not be able to collect a franchise tax on the privilege given the road under the new contract. He began by reading the telegram sent to Senator Burlingame by Comptroller Prendergast in which he said that the Board of Estimate would welcome an investigation if it were made by other than "self-seekers and mountebanks."

"When everywhere there is a great clamor as to how to lighten the tax burdens under which the people of New York City are suffering, I can't understand how the public officials of New York City can sit down and conspire with the Board of Directors of a great railroad corporation to arrange that hereafter that railroad won't have to pay the city a special franchise tax."

"I had nothing to do with the proposal to investigate the contract," said the Senator, "I was not consulted about it and had not concerned myself about it. Yet I and the other members of the committee who investigated the Public Service Commission are charged with being 'self-seekers and mountebanks.'"

SHOULD NOT FEAR A PUBLIC INVESTIGATION.

"The one thing that is wrong with the Comptroller is that he doesn't understand the definition of the word 'investigation.' He understands the definition of 'mountebank,' but he does not understand the meaning of 'investigation.' Investigation means to find out something you don't know. If a man is right and feels that he is right and wants to let the truth be known he doesn't care what kind of a man investigates him. He would be satisfied with a committee that is independent, because he knows that he will come out right at the end."

"The dictionary says that a mountebank is a vendor of patent medicines—a quack, who mounts a platform and makes a harangue to collect a crowd. It also means a short-tailed kite. We didn't mount any platform, we didn't harangue any crowd, we didn't go on a tour of duty."

"After seven years ago after a bill had been introduced in the Legisla-

MRS. WIX'S HEART NOT STONE TO HERO, ASSERTS HER MAID

Endearing Meetings When Life Saver Called Described in Divorce Action.

Mrs. Winifred Wix, young wife of Dr. George H. Wix of Long Beach, was to-day described as the "lady in the big house with the stone heart," but that description was later belied when Denia Wilkenny, her former maid, told the jury in Justice Phillips' part of the Supreme Court that if her mistress' heart was stone it melted whenever Nicholas Demetrius, Apollo-like life guard at a Long Beach bathing resort, called on Mrs. Wix at her shore home.

The physician is suing Mrs. Wix for divorce, naming Demetrius as co-respondent, and the principal witnesses against the wife were Joseph Lopez, the doctor's chauffeur, and Miss Wilkenny. It was Lopez, who told the doctor all he knew about Mrs. Wix.

While rummaging through a waste basket in the Long Beach home, Lopez told the jury under cross examination by C. W. Randall, counsel for Mrs. Wix, he found a letter and it seemed so strange to him that he kept it, showed it to his wife and came to the conclusion that Demetrius had written it.

He gave the letter to Mrs. Wix out of sympathy for her, but he was able to recall every word of it so perfectly that he gave the jury a verbatim account. It follows:

"My dear Winifred: I received your letter and it makes me so happy that the lady in the big house with the stone heart does not think about Nick as other people do. I received your photo. I still live in the same place, same room and same number. I will not move until you come again. Now, darling dear, I bid you goodbye."

"NICK."

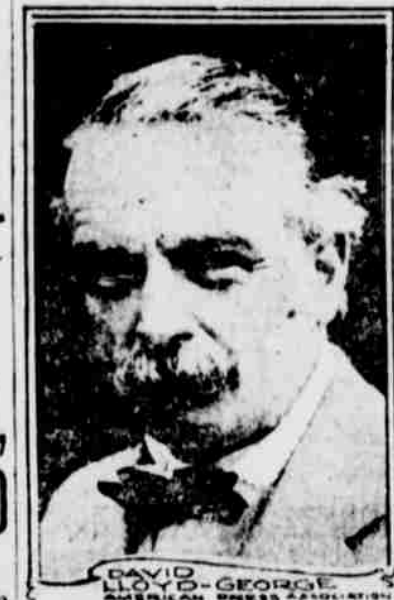
Some time after returning the letter to Mrs. Wix Lopez declared he met Demetrius, whom he referred to as "the hero," and accused him of being too friendly with his master's wife.

"But Nicholas," said the witness, "told me that anybody who made trouble for him or Mrs. Wix would be killed even if he (Nicholas) had to go to the electric chair. He added that he had a big knife and would cut off the head of the man who made the trouble."

Miss Wilkenny worked for the Wixes on two occasions and had been Demetrius' visit the Long Beach home when the doctor was away so many times she couldn't keep track of them. The first time he called, she said, Mrs. Wix entertained him at dinner. The next time he was a visitor the maid happened into the parlor and there saw the lady with the stone heart sitting on the life guard's knee and he had his arm entwined about the form of Mrs. Wix who was sitting in a wicker chair.

She said she had seen Mrs. Wix and the life guard together in the house several times in Mrs. Wix's room and when in the parlor. Mrs. Wix, she heard, was sitting in a wicker chair and a boulder cap.

BRITISH PREMIER SAID TO BE SELECTED AS POISON PLOT VICTIM



141 LIVES LOST ON A TORPEDOED FRENCH TRANSPORT

Paris Admits Loss of Amiral Magon — Berlin Reported Ship Sank in 10 Minutes.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—Official announcement was made here to-night that the transport Amiral Magon, which was taking 950 soldiers to Salonica, escorted by the destroyer Arc, was torpedoed by a submarine on Jan. 26. Of those on board 141 were lost.

A statement from the German Admiralty on Monday said that on Jan. 25 a German submarine at a point about 250 miles east of Malta sank an armed transport steamer which was proceeding eastward, conveyed by a French torpedo-boat.

The steamer, which was filled with troops, was said to have gone down in ten minutes.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—Lloyd's announced that the Danish steamer Daisy, 1200 tons, has been sunk. The crew has been landed.

Lloyd's also reported the sinking of the Spanish steamer Puntateno.

POLISH STATE COUNCIL GIVES THANKS TO WILSON

Telegraphs President His Appreciation of His Recent Senate Speech.

WARSAW, Jan. 31.—Via Berlin and London.—The Provisional Polish State Council has telegraphed the following message to President Wilson in regard to the President's recent speech to the Senate:

"The Provisional State Council of the Kingdom of Poland, which came into being by the proclamations of Nov. 5, 1916, solemnly announced by the monarchs of Germany and Austria-Hungary, has the honor, Mr. President, to take cognizance of your message. It is the first time in this war that the head of a powerful neutral state who at the same time is the chief representative of a great nation, has declared officially that, according to his conviction, the independence of the Polish State is the only just solution of the Polish question and an inalienable condition of a lasting and just peace. For this reason, the Provisional State Council tendered you deepest gratitude and respect for its own name and in the name of the Polish nation."

SCOTLAND YARD DISCOVERS PLOT TO POISON THE BRITISH PREMIER AND HIS CHIEF AIDE

Three Women and a Man, Members of One Family, Under Arrest—All Are "Constitutional Objectors" to the War.

THIRTY WITNESSES TO APPEAR AGAINST THEM

LONDON, Jan. 31.—Three women and a man, accused of having conspired to kill Premier Lloyd George and his chief aide, Arthur Henderson, member of the House of Commons and the War Council, by poison, were arraigned before a magistrate in the Guildhall at Derby to-day and held for further hearings.

The plot appears to have been a family affair, the prisoners, who were arrested yesterday, being Mrs. Alice Wheelton, her daughters Harriet Wheelton and Mrs. Winifred Mason, and the latter's husband, Alfred Mason, all of Derby. Mrs. Mason, however, was arrested at Southampton, and although details are lacking, it is believed she went to that city from Derby for the purpose of purchasing something connected with the alleged plot.

Mason is an expert chemist, and, in his community, a leading "C. O.," as conscientious objectors to war and war service are called. The women are said to be ardent suffragists, but their feelings as to suffrage are not believed to be concerned in the plot, as Lloyd George is favorable to suffrage.

It is supposed that Mason, who is a radical in his opposition to war and military service, got the women into the plot. Scotland Yard received an intimation last Saturday that the Derby quartette were conspiring against the life of the Premier and Mr. Henderson. The revelation was of such a startling nature that Chief Inspector Parker assumed personal charge of the investigation. The alleged conspirators have been under surveillance since Saturday night.

Only formal evidence in the shape of a complaint was offered against the prisoners to-day. The details of the plot will be revealed, it is believed, at a subsequent arraignment. It is stated that the plot, originally directed at the life of Lloyd George because he declared that the war must continue to a "knockout," was extended to include Mr. Henderson when the latter committed himself in a newspaper interview to a vigorous pursuit of the campaign against the Central Powers.

The complaint filed to-day charges "That the defendants on diverse days between Dec. 25 and the date of laying this information did amongst themselves unlawfully and wickedly conspire, confederate and agree together against the Right Hon. David Lloyd George and the Right Hon. Arthur Henderson, wilfully and with malice aforethought, to kill and murder, contrary to the Offences Against Persons Act of 1861 and against the peace of our Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity."

The information is signed by A. H. Bodkin, prosecuting on behalf of the Crown.

The Government has thirty witnesses to support the charge of conspiracy to murder.

Owing to lack of accommodation at Derby for such important prisoners they will be taken to Birmingham Jail to await resumption of the case next Saturday.

Harriet Wheelton was arrested at Hkerton School, at which she has been teaching. Her only comment was: "I know nothing about this charge." Winifred (Mrs. Alfred) Mason, another teacher, said: "I don't know what it is all about. It is an infamous concoction." She added that her husband also was innocent.

Mrs. Alice Wheelton said: "This is just a trumped-up charge to punish me because my dad is a conscientious objector. You brought up an unfounded charge against him and he went to prison for it. Now that he is out of the way you are trying to punish him through me."